

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 28-31, 33-51, and 53-59 are now pending in this application.

Interview Summary

Applicant wishes to thank the Office for the interview of October 28, 2008. The Interview Summary prepared by the Examiner accurately summarizes the interview.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 36, 38, and 54 include allowable subject matter.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 28-31, 33-35, 37, 39-41, 45-47, 51, 53, 55, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,765,863 to Storey *et al.* (hereafter "Storey"). Claims 42-44, 48-50, and 56-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Storey. The rejection should be withdrawn because Storey fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In particular, as noted in the Interview Summary mailed November 4, 2008, Storey does not disclose a passenger protection system comprising, among other things, a gas generator and a gas bag including a filling channel with a narrow portion and an envelope portion folded into an envelope pack, wherein the envelope pack is folded together in a middle of the long axis of the envelope pack to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into a narrow portion of the filling channel, as recited in claim 28.

Claims 29-31, 33-37, 39-50, 56 and 59 depend from claim 28. Therefore, these dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained in these dependent claims.

Similarly to claim 28, Storey also fails to disclose, teach or suggest a method “wherein the envelope pack is folded in a middle of the long axis of the envelope pack to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into the narrow portion of the filling channel” as called for in claim 51 and a system “wherein the envelope pack is folded together in a middle of the long axis of the envelope pack to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into the narrow portion of the filling channel” as called for in claim 55.

For example, Figures 12 and 4 of Storey show that a top edge 82 of a cushion is inverted by inserting the top edge 82 between sheets 36, 38 of the cushion. See Storey at col. 10, lines 32-49. The lower forward corner of the cushion is then inverted and the cushion is folded, as shown in Figures 13-16. See Storey at col. 10, line 50, to col. 11, line 4. However, neither the top edge 82 or the lower forward corner is folded into an envelope pack and folded together in a middle of a long access of the envelope to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into a narrow portion of a filling channel of the cushion, as recited in claims 28, 51, and 55.

Storey shows another folding embodiment in Figures 17-22 in which a top edge 82 of a cushion is inverted into the airbag and the upper forward corner of the cushion is then inverted into the airbag. See Storey at col. 11, line 35, to col. 12, line 4. However, neither the top edge 82 or the upper forward corner of this arrangement is folded into an envelope pack and folded together in a middle of a long access of the envelope to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into a narrow portion of a filling channel of the cushion, as recited in claims 28, 51, and 55.

A technique for folding a side impact cushion is shown in Figures 23-30 of Storey. In this technique a clamped forward end 124 of the cushion is moved backward between the sheets of the cushion, as shown in Figures 24 and 25 to form an intermediate end 136 that is also clamped and inserted backward between the sheets of the cushion, as shown in Figures 26 and 27. However, this arrangement does not include an envelope pack that is folded together in a middle of a long access of the envelope to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into a narrow portion of a filling channel of the cushion, as recited in claims 28, 51, and 55. For example, Figures 25, 27, and 29 show folds that run parallel to a long axis of the portions of the cushion that have been inserted back into the cushion, not in a middle of the long axis

to form a U-shaped pack that is inserted into a narrow portion of a filling channel of the cushion.

Claims 53, 57 and 59 depend from claim 51 and claim 58 depends from claim 55. These claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained in these dependent claims.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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